

Remarks

In the Office Action dated December 7, 2005, Examiner objected to the disclosure because “[o]n page 13, lines 3-4, the unknown application referred to need [sic] updating.” The Examiner rejected claims 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 4,564,056 (Doring). Claims 1-15 are allowed.

Applicant’s Attorney updated the specification on page 13, lines 3-4 as directed. Applicant’s Attorney also corrected a typographical error on page 13, line 4. No new matter was added.

By this Amendment, Applicant’s Attorney has amended independent claim 16 to more particularly point out and distinctly claim what Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant’s Attorney has not introduced new matter. (pg. 8, ll. 17-28)

With regard to amended claim 16, Doring does not disclose, teach, or suggest a flange section projecting radially outward from a second end of a cylindrical section, the flange section having a substantially flat surface opposite to the cylindrical section, wherein at least one interface seal is formed on the flat surface as a hemispherical projection.

Claims 17-20 depend from claim 16. For at least the reasons claim 16 is patentable over Doring, claims 17-20 are patentable over Doring. Claims 17-20 have additional limitations beyond claim 16 providing further reason that claims 17-20 are patentable over Doring.

Applicant’s Attorney submits that the claims are in a condition for allowance. Applicant’s Attorney respectfully requests a notice to that effect. Applicant’s Attorney also invites a telephone conference if the Examiner believes that it will advance the prosecution of this application.

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Reply to Office Action of December 7, 2005

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Respectfully submitted,

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